

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **CRAWFORD LEGISLATION ON SENTENCING POLICIES PASSED BY HOUSE**

INDIANAPOLIS -- New legislation created in response to a report from an 18 month-long study conducted by the Sentencing Policy Study Committee passed out of the House today. State Rep. Bill Crawford (D-Indianapolis), who is a member of this committee, was also a co-sponsor of these bills.

Senate Bill 98 will give judges the option of ordering people on probation to fulfill all or part of a suspended sentence if it is found that they have violated the terms of their probation. Current law only allows for judges to order the full execution of the suspended sentence. This bill passed by a vote of 99-0.

"This will not only give us the opportunity to save money by reducing the length of time that a person will be incarcerated, but will also allow judges flexibility in deciding appropriate punishment," said Crawford.

Senate Bill 101 will allow courts to hold a hearing and modify a probationer's conditions of probation at any time during the probationary period, as long as the probationer is notified of when and where the hearing is to take place. Senate Bill 101 passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 95 reestablishes the Sentencing Policy Study Committee. The group will continue to analyze sentencing laws and policies for the next two years. This bill also adds two additional senators and two additional representatives to the committee. The House voted 95 - 1 in favor of this bill.

"One only needs to look at the multitude of strong legislation that has appeared as a result of the Sentencing Policy Study Committee's report to see the importance and significance of this group," said Crawford. "It is necessary that we give this committee enough time to continue gathering information. It is an important consultative body for the House of Representatives."

These bills will now go to the governor for final approval.